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BOOK REVIEWS.

SNELL'S PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY. Seventeenth Edition. By H. Gibson Rigington, M. A., and A. Clifford Fountaine. Pp. 578, 21s. London: Stevens and Hayes, 1915.

Good wine needs no bush and Snell's Equity, at this late date, needs no more praises. Many generations of candidates in the mysteries of the law have piously conned its pages since its author at the early age of twenty-six first issued it for the benefit of his contemporaries and the administration of his followers. The seventeenth edition brings the work up to date by including the important decisions and statutes added to English equity law since 1912. The new editors have abandoned at last the old subdivision into exclusive, concurrent, and auxiliary jurisdiction, and dropped the last-named topic out altogether, substituting for it in the first part of the book a short chapter on the effect of the Judicature Acts upon the powers of the court. The arrangement of the remaining chapters is substantially unchanged.

We cannot help being struck by the comparative simplicity of the task of an English text-writer, with his one set of Law Reports to study, as against the colossal labor that confronts an American editor who sets out to revise a standard text and has to plough through fifty sets of reports. Snell, after seventeen editions, is still contained in one volume of less than 600 pages; Pomeroy, on the same subject, in its third edition, contains six volumes of the same size as Snell, and its "Index to Cases Cited" alone exceeds the entire bulk of Snell by at least 200 pages! Such gigantic masses of citations reduce our texts to mere digests and make impossible any attempt at a style which the Briton finds at least possible of attainment.

Samuel Rosenbaum.

A SKETCH OF ENGLISH LEGAL HISTORY. By F. W. Maitland and F. C. Montague. Edited by James F. Colby. Pp. 225. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915.

It is questionable whether it is fair to the memory of so great a scholar as the late Professor Maitland to publish under his name as "by" him fragmentary extracts, however brilliant, contributed to a purely popular work. If this practice is correct who that dies with advertising value attached to his name is safe from the enterprising publisher who may resurrect his long forgotten "pot boilers"? It would have been better to have given this book a title that would have more accurately described its source. The material is derived from chapters contributed by Professors Maitland and Montague to Social England, a general work edited in 1899. The early period is covered by chapters by Maitland and the modern by Montague aided by occasional extracts from other works. A brief bibliography in the form of recommended readings is given at the end of each chapter.

The book is, as it purports to be, a sketch or primer, and an excellent one for the layman who might be inclined to know something of legal history. It is also available as a text book for a short college course preparatory to the study of the law, but is hardly comprehensive enough to meet the needs of the full fledged law student.